Racial harmony

Identity Jam

by 200 students.

Creative Performance this Friday,
with the annual Celebration of

to be celebrated concurrently

for the DeVos Fieldhouse are

them of indecent exposure laws.

10. The officers apprehended the

naked through the Pine Grove Jan.

witnessed three students running

incident, but no retaliatory action

implemented half-hour patrols,

Anchor from hostile Calvin attack.

traditionally hide in Graves on

protectors of the Anchor,

maroon paint.

house was also vandalized with

basketball game on Jan. 14. The

repainted the Hope anchor

waiting for approval from

lockdown policy.

The policy has gone through
the housing committee and
Student Congress. It is now
waiting for approval from
President Brame.

CALVIN MISCREANTS VANDALIZE THE ANCHOR

Calvin College students repainted the Hope anchor maroon and yellow the morning before the
the Hope-Calvin basketball game on Jan. 14. The
garage door to the President’s house was also vandalized with
maroon paint.

Durfee Hall, self-proclaimed
protectors of the Anchor,
traditionally hide in Graves on
the afternoon of the Hope-Calvin
basketball game and defend the
Anchor from hostile Calvin attack.

This year, the responsibility was
taken up by Campus Safety, who
implemented half-hour patrols,

waiting for approval from
President Brame.

MARCHING FOR TOGETHERNESS — International student advisor Habeeb
Awd, Dean of Students Richard Frost, President James Bultman and Associate
Provost Alfredo Gonzales led a “unity prayer march” around campus on Jan. 16.

NEW HOPE MASCOT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Jenny Cancero
SPORTS EDITOR

Erin L’Hotta
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

In order to create a represen-
tative mascot design, Student
Congress will soon announce a
drawing contest to find an
all-encompassing character to
symbolize the entire campus.

In early December 1,095
members of the Hope com-

nely electronically voted on their
favorite mascot to represent the
Flying Dutchman. The four
choices were a pilot, sailor, sea
captain or squirrel. All were
design by Street Characters Inc.

Concept Artist Brendan Van Vugt

overseen by Lauren Engel (’06),

Student Congress president; Brad
Matson (’07), Student Congress
vice-president; John Jobson, di-

ector of residential life; and Ray

Smith, director of men’s athletics.

On Jan. 12 Student Congress
notified the athletic department
of the winning mascot. This was
the first time that Eva Folker,
director of women’s athletics,

was invited into the conversa-
tion concerning the mascot.

“I was concerned when I was
presented with four ideas for
a mascot and saw that three of
them were male faces. By hav-
ing a male mascot we are leav-

out dedicated women who
aren’t going to be represented,”
said Folker. “Currently, I am
extremely reluctant to use the
mascot at a women’s game.”

Richard Ray, professor and
chair of kinesiology, agreed with
Folker and contacted Student
Congress about his concern.

“The concern is that a male
mascot marginalizes the fe-
male athletes and other female
members of the student body
for whom the mascot becomes
a symbol,” Ray said. Ray sug-
gested that the college have a
“gender-neutral” mascot.

If that wasn’t possible, he
suggested having a male and
female mascot that are in-

roduced on the same date.

Currently, Student Develop-
cannot fund two mascots be-
cause to design one costume
alone, it costs $5,000. Student Con-
gress said they would ideally like
to have a male and female mascot
revealed at the same time, but this
isn’t feasible with current funds.

It was concept artist Brendan
Witty who advised Engel and
Matson against a gender-neutral
character to be the mascot be-
cause he said it “would be hard
to relate to.” However, in light of the Athletic Departments
concern, Student Congress de-
cided to hold off on choosing
the mascot that won the online
vote and, according to Engel and
Matson they hope to continue
discussing the issue further.

“We don’t want to move too fast
in choosing a mascot,” Engel said.

Since the original options weren’t
inclusive to the whole Hope com-

munity, Student Congress de-
cided to have a drawing contest.

It would be open to students,

faculty, staff and administration.

“We want people to sub-
mit a drawing of what per-
sonifies a Hope College

STUDENTS STREAK ACROSS PINE GROVE

Campus Safety officers witnessed three students running
naked through the Pine Grove Jan. 10. The officers apprehended the
students, ID’d them and advised
them of indecent exposure laws.

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH CELEBRATED AT DEVOS

The dedication activities for the DeVos Fieldhouse are
to be celebrated concurrently with the annual Celebration of
Undergraduate Research and Creative Performance this Friday,
Jan. 27. Planned for the event are presentations of original research
by 200 students.

CLEAN WATER PROJECTS HELP COMBAT HIV/AIDS

Lindsey Manthei

Every year, we mourn the loss of
the 2,996 people who lost their
lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terror-
ist attacks. Not many would agree
that Sept. 11 was a tragic loss of
human lives. However, few of us
stop to mourn the estimated 8,493
people who die every day due to
the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In 2005, 18,000 people died of
AIDS in the U.S. and Canada and
2.4 million in sub-Saharan Africa,
according to the United Nations
Program on HIV/AIDS.

Several groups at Hope have
heard the cries of these forgotten
people and have mobilized efforts
to help turn the tide.

In the summer of 2005, many
Hope students traveled to Swa-
ziland in response to Bruce
Wilkinson’s call to turn the tides
in Africa by teaching abstinence
in schools.

Several other student groups
have taken a different approach
to helping with the AIDS problem.

Since HIV destroys the immune
system, most people who are in-
fected die from other diseases or
infections.

Much of Africa deals with a
lack of water, so groups from
around the world have started
humanitarian projects to build
wells that provide clean water
to villages.

Many villagers must walk miles to reach a stream that
acts as a garbage disposal for all the villages upstream. Without
clean water, people infected with
AIDS have little hope of staying
healthy.

In the fall, Libby Skaff (’07)
organized the 1,000 Wells project in conjunc-
tion with Amnesty International
and Mortar Board to raise money
to build a well in Kenya.

By drinking only water for two

BATTLING DISEASE — Hope’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders are designing a water purification system in Nkuff, Cameroon. They plan to implement the system this summer.

SEE WATER, PAGE 4
STATE POLITICAL RACES COME TO HOPE
Protest group rallies against gubernatorial candidate outside Maas Auditorium

BlecK Wortex

On Jan. 23 Ford Motor Company announced its plans to close up to 14 factories, eliminating 30,000 jobs. Factories to be shut down include their plant in Wixom, a suburb of Detroit.

It may have been 299 days before November’s midterm elections, but campaign season was still in full swing at Maas Auditorium on Jan. 12. The auditorium witnessed the first college campaign rally of the campaign season as Michigan Republican gubernatorial and senatorial candidates Dick DeVos and Keith Butler spoke on education, economy, and national security to an audience of over 100 students, faculty, and community members.

DeVos, running unopposed for the Republican nomination against Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, called for meaningful educational and economic reforms to reverse Michigan’s struggling economy.

"Government can’t provide jobs, but it can provide opportunity," DeVos said, pointing out that Michigan joined hurricane ravaged Louisiana and Mississippi as the only states that lost jobs during 2005.

A small contingent of protesters gathered on Columbia Avenue outside the rally. They displayed signs critical of Devos’s outsourcing of jobs to China during his tenure as president at Allcort, the family company of the state Board of Education, said the state had a “very capable and excellent” higher education system but also noted the failings of the secondary education system.

Noting that two-thirds of the students in the Class of 2005 were below grade level in social studies, DeVos called for increased school choice. The matter is a “choice between the system and kids,” the candidate said.

“Clearly what we have been doing has got to change,” DeVos said.

Senatorial candidate Keith Butler also spoke, explaining his rationale for joining the Republican Party and running for Senate.

Butler, the founding pastor of Word of Faith International Christian Center Church, argued for a reform to a “Byzantine” tax code, stating “the dollars you earn are your own.”

He also touched on the current ethics scandals embroiling the House of Representatives, noting that “you can’t legislate morality, but you can legislate morality.”

Butler defended the controversial No Child Left Behind Act, calling it a national security issue in today’s increasingly global economy. Butler said that for any system that brings accountability,” the candidate said.

When asked about the current state of health care, Butler expressed support for health savings account, which would reward participants for preventative measures such as diet and exercise. Health care is overutilized, he argued, because there is no direct personal expense.

The candidate also called for tax breaks for members of military, arguing that their sacrifice, both in their service and in regards to their employment, should be rewarded.

Butler faces Cutlerville resident and fellow minister Jerry Zandstra in August primaries ahead of November general election against one-term Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Current polls show both candidates currently leading both races.

IRAN: NUCLEAR THREAT?

Cristina Gallach was very troubled by Iran’s recent work at nuclear facilities. “This is very much a step in the wrong direction. We are extremely concerned, and consultations are taking place to coordinate a response,” Gallach said.

French President Jacques Chirac said clearly that Iran, as well as North Korea, had to begin cooperating with the international community.

“These countries would commit a serious error by not accepting the hand we are holding out to them,” Chirac said.

Germany’s foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Iran has “crossed lines which it knew would not remain without consequences.”

Well known terrorism authority Ali al-Masri has revealed that Iran has also begun building platforms in two underground halls that can hold more than 5,000 uranium centrifuges it has promised.

“Ten thousand centrifuge machines are needed to produce enriched uranium,” president of the Nuclear Control Institute Paul Leventhal said.

Low-grade uranium can be produced with 5,000 or even as few as 2,000 centrifuges. This much uranium would be enough to produce a nuclear bomb.

FORD CUTBACKS

On Jan. 23 Ford Motor Company announced its plans to close up to 14 factories, eliminating 30,000 jobs. Factories to be shut down include their plant in Wixom, a suburb of Detroit.

Lemarc' White

FORD CUTBACKS

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This Week in Arts

Wednesday    Jan. 25
VWS: Victor Rodríguez-Núñez 7 p.m., Knickerbocker Theatre. Free
Travis Kingma 9-11 p.m., Coolbeans Coffeehouse. Free

Thursday    Jan. 26
Eric Bourassa: Classical Guitar 9 p.m.; Cup and Chasen - Van Wylan Library. Free

Friday    Jan. 27
* The Many Faces: A Collection of Scenes 8 p.m., DeVitt Studio Theatre. $2
SAM Movie: "Just Like Heaven" 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Midnight, Graves Hall 52

Saturday    Jan. 28
Senior Recital: Sarah Blanken- ship 6 p.m., Wichers Auditorium. Free
SAM Movie: "Just Like Heaven" 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Midnight, Graves Hall 52

Sunday    Jan. 29
SAM Movie: "Just Like Heaven" 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Midnight, Graves Hall 52

Tuesday    Jan. 31
Aquila Theatre: Hamlet 7:30 p.m., Knickerbocker Theatre. $5 for students, $15 for the general public.

75 FREE TICKETS TO WEST SIDE STORY

Opera Grand Rapids will be presenting Leonard Bernstein’s “West Side Story” at DeVos Hall on Feb. 10 and 11. By special ar-
rangement, Hope College has 75 free student tickets for the dress
rehearsal on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Those interested in going may
sign up for a ticket in the Music Office. Deadline is 4 p.m. on Jan.
30. Hope College transportation is available for a $5 co-op,
payable at the time of sign-up, and will leave from the DeVos
flagpole area at 6:15 on Feb. 9.

VISITING WRITERS SERIES TO FEATURE POET

The Hope College Visiting
Writers Series will feature award-winning poet and journalist
Victor Rodríguez-Núñez on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. at
the Knickerbocker Theatre. Rodríguez-Núñez is the author of
seven books of poetry, many of them recipients of literary awards,
including the David Prize (Cuba), the Pena Prize (Mexico) and
the Renacimiento Prize (Spain). The Hope College jazz en-
semble will perform a pre-rehearsal show beginning at 6:30 p.m.

NEW TICKET CENTER IN DEVOS ARENA

The Devos Ticket Center, located in the DeVos Fieldhouse, is
the new central ticket office for most Hope College arts events.

COPELAND TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Copeland will be performing at the Knick-
kerbocker Theatre on Feb. 3. Tickets are now on sale at the
Student Union Desk in the DeVitt Center for $5 (with a student ID)
and $15 for the general public.

Tales of the psyche: GPS features Aquila Theatre

Jordan Wolfson

On Jan. 31 the Knickerbocker Theatre
will play host to a portal in time, which
will take all those attending back into
the realms of old Denmark, to watch William
Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” The most famous
plays, run its course. However, those
who arrive at the theatre on Feb. 1 will
give them the essence of old England in Robert
Lewis Stevenson’s “The Strange Case of Dr.
Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” On these days, the Knickerbocker
Theatre will perform one of the Aquila Theatre
performing group, whose productions will
delve into the depths of the human psyche,
and illuminate our hearts.

Earning great respect for its serious
approach to drama, the Aquila Theatre is a
well-known New York-based theatre group.
They have emerged as a leading national
company because of their unique approach
to the performance and to the pieces they
choose, sometimes rewriting the entire script
itself to make the play more appealing to the
audiences of today. The company’s approach
to classical drama is to free the spirit of the
original text and allow the widest audience
possible to enjoy the plays as live, visceral
and entertaining theatre.

“Aquila’s bold and innovative storytelling,
respect for the original text, and compelling
stagecraft have been acclaimed by The New
York Times as ‘making an old tale brim with
timely resonance–enhancing its relevance to
the 21st century.’”

“Hamlet,” widely believed to be one of
Shakespeare’s best works, focuses on
incest, inheritance, murder and the belief that
perhaps the smartest people in the world are
not always the sanest ones. The Aquila
Theatre raises the bar on Shakespeare by
transforming the play into something that all
people can understand.

“Aquila makes Shakespeare perfectly
comprehensible...” The New York Times
reported.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr.
Hyde, known as one of the earliest works of
horror fiction, allows the Aquila Theatre to
continue its long-standing tradition of adapting
important classic stories for the stage.

“Hamlet” will be performed on Jan. 31
at 7:30 p.m. and “The Strange Case of Dr.
Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” will be performed on
Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Both shows will be held
in the Knickerbocker Theatre.

Tickets for the performance are $15 for adult admis-
sion. $12 for senior citizens, and $5 for
students and children 18 and under. Tickets are
available now and may be purchased by calling
(616) 395-7900 or by visiting the ticket office
in the DeVos Fieldhouse.

Student artists speak out at IDentity Jam

One question, asking what top ten states are
the most Hope students from, met with many
responses, including, "Idaho," "Hawaii" and
"Arkansas!" None of these three made the
top ten list.

Lein (’06) brought up the topic of racial
injustice, speaking, in his opinion, on the
unfortunate acts of intolerance suffered by
many because of race.

“Our job is to bridge the gap.”

-- NoahDavid Lein (’06)

Though many of the acts drew applause, the
crowd clapped loudest for a rap performance by
one Hope student, identified by himself and the
emcees as ASJ.

ASJ’s music is Christian-inspired and self-
composed. He presented three of his pieces
of his identity celebration of Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. and in memoriam of his dad.

“As J, I see the stuff,” he said.

“God gives us all things,” ASJ said. “Just
dig deep... It’s a good place.”

ASJ considers his music to be unique among
other rap artists.

“I’ve come up with a new way to write
music, without sex or solicitation and all that
crap on there.”

His second song demonstrates what he
means. It described a man’s — his ideal date:

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means. It described a man’s — his ideal date:
As part of Hope College’s Martin Luther King Jr. week, Dr. Mary Inman of the psychology department presented a lecture titled “What Can I Do?—Creating Harmony” to a packed crowd in Maas auditorium Tuesday afternoon.

“What is the goal of this presentation? This is not to understand racism,” she said, “but to create change,” she said.

Inman gave specific examples of how students can fight it. Inman encouraged students to be prepared to speak up when they hear racist comments and confront the problem. According to Inman, at least one hate crime occurs on a college campus every day.

“It’s all of our responsibility to take care of one another,” she said.

UNITY, FROM PAGE 1

continuing the dream

Hope College has been dealing heavily with the issue of racism over the past year after racial slurs occurred in the fall. Students rallied in support of the harassed students and spoke out against racism through petitions, forums and chalkings.

Though Hope administration is committed to creating a diverse and supportive campus, Hope has the lowest percentage of minority students out of all the schools in their division, according to Inman. Since the college has so few minority students, it often has trouble attracting more.

Many students at Hope come from single race communities and have never lived with minorities. Inman said that every day students are simply incom- siderate and don’t consider how their actions will affect others.

“Inman said, explaining that minorities have to think about how others will perceive them every day.

“Being a white male living in a mostly white Dutch community, I’m not usually affected by racism, though subtly I can see its effects,” Jon Sprick (’08) said.

Today, few would claim to be racist, though subtle racism still has not decreased, Inman said, citing several studies in which people were asked to group certain faces with certain words such as “good,” “bad,” “crime,” and “wealthy.” Many discovered that under pressure, they did show signs of subtle, underlying racism.

Researchers have found that the state of Mississippi still has 26 hate groups, Alabama, 27, and Michigan, 22.

“People of color are much more self conscious of their race,” Inman said, explaining that minorities have to think about how others will perceive them every day.

Inman urged students to commit to being a people that lived out the biblical mandate that every person is created in the image of God.

IN MEMORIAL — Women’s Studies and Senior Seminar students organized a commemorative lunch counter at In Jan. 19 to benefit the faculty minority scholarship fund.

“Racism does happen here,” Inman said, citing a recent “ghetto party” and a “gangsta party.” She urged the audience to commit to being a people that lived out the biblical mandate that every person is created in the image of God.

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Researchers have found that the state of Mississippi still has 26 hate groups, Alabama, 27, and Michigan, 22.
In talking to students on Hope’s campus the question repeatedly heard is “Why does tuition have to be so expensive?” Where does all of tuition really go? According to Tom Bylsma, vice president and chief fiscal of- ficer, the average annual increase in tuition at Hope over the past nine years has been 4.7 percent. That’s more than a $1,000 in- crease a year. Bylsma stated that the main reason for the constant increase in tuition is to keep up with inflation and remain com- petitive in the market by increasing faculty compensation, building new facilities (Martha Miller Center, DeVos Fieldhouse) and keeping pace with rising utility costs.

Bylsma said tuition costs fall under one of two categories—di- rect or indirect. Tuition covers approximately 75 percent of the direct costs. The other 25 percent come from spending endowment earnings and the annual contribu- tions of Hope constituents. Examples of direct costs are instruc- tion, library and information technology. Indirect costs would be things like food services, resi- dence halls, bookstore and other non-education based expenses.

“The majority of tuition reve- nue (75 percent) is used to com- pensate faculty and other educa- tional support personnel,” said Bylsma. Other primary usage of tuition revenue is for library books, periodicals and electronic media. Tuition also goes towards utilities, maintenance and prop- erty insurance of the educational buildings.

The tuition for the 2005-06 academic year was $21,420, not including the $3,000+ to live on campus, and the other $3,000+ to be on a meal plan. “Even though the tuition is $21,420, most students do not pay the full tuition amount,” Bylsma said. “Merit and need-based scholar- ships are provided to a majority of the students attending Hope, and on average discount the tuition by approximately one-third.”

According to Hope College’s Business and Finance Office, Hope has the lowest tuition of all the colleges in the Great Lakes Colleges Association, a group composed of 12 Midwest liberal arts colleges with many similarities like high academic standards including Albion, Kal- amazoo and Wheaton.

The percentage increase of tuition for the 2006-07 academic year will not be decided until the spring. The expense of tuition at Hope has become a campus joke.

On Jan. 21 SAC sponsored comedian Mike Ester, who per- formed in The Kletz. Ester made several references to Hope’s costly tuition. When he broke the microphone he joked, “just tack it on to your tuition for next year.”

Ester continued that if students feel like “they’re getting screwed by tuition”, they should “screw tuition right back” by participat- ing in everything. “Go to every SAC event, play intramural sports, participate in Dance Marathon, walk in Relay for Life, go to concerts, join knit- ting club, go to classes you’re not enrolled in and when the teacher asks why you’re there tell them you just want some extra knowl- edge,” he said.
They Call It “The Good Life”

It was supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. But I don’t believe that. I looked at Christmas this year and I saw shopping malls selling sex and status to little children. I saw iPods, cell phones, zip cars everywhere. Presents piled to the ceiling. Moms stressed over the perfect sweater, recipe, Christmas card picture. Betsy was rakin’ in the dough. It gave me a headache for months. I was spinning in a world of fancy, flashy, fast, independent crap saying, “Buy me. Want me. You need me. Choosing me will make you prettier, more popular.”

This year I didn’t even want to open my gifts. As I unwrapped the sweater, jewelry box, pocketbook, I couldn’t even bring myself to say thank you. All that was running through my head was “I didn’t ask for this.”

Look at us now. The newspaper industry is going down the tube. No one wants to read the news when they can watch the Daily Show on TV. Rumor has it that soon hardcover books will cease to exist; instead we will access anything ever published by downloading books online.

Everything is fast. Easy. It’s all entertainment and ads. That’s all we are.

Our minds are flooded with commercial after commercial in between TV shows. Ads become embedded within TV programs, paying actors to drink Doctor Pepper, use Macintosh computers, wear Abercrombie and Fitch. Make us envy everything they have that we can never afford. Pop-up ads have become normative before one sets eyes on any website. Google search engine is an ad in itself. Media messages are on sides of buses, buildings, 21 and older wrist bands, even scoreboards at DeVos Fieldhouse.

“Buy me. Want me. Need me. Choosing me will make you more attractive, popular.” These messages unconsciously crowd our minds. Their image becomes embedded within us. You can’t escape this world.

Can you pick more daisies? Jump in more mud puddles? Put all the fancy, flashy, fast stuff away and buy your ipod, your polo shirt? How do you know when to stop, take a step back and live simply?

We are living in a world of trend. People actually read invested time. Challenged themselves to step beyond what they already knew and lustfully wanted. The whole idea of advertising didn’t exist until 40 years later.

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How do you know when it’s okay to give into the culture and buy your ipod, your polo shirt? How do you know when to stop, take a step back and live simply?

Can you pick more daisies? Jump in more mud puddles? Put all the fancy, flashy, fast stuff aside?

Christian Response to Racism

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship is sponsoring a panel discussion on issues of racism in the context of faith this Thursday at 7:33 p.m. at Pillar Youth Center. (By College East across from the RR tracks).

CLASSIFIEDS

Volunteer Services is looking to hire a new Student Coordinator. The ideal candidate would be a self driven leader with a passion for service.

Commitment would be approximately ten hours per week. Please email volunteers@hope.edu for more information by Friday, January 27th.

THE PEACE CORPS.

They make little or no progress with their frumpy, dopey plans to save the world. By getting a white collar job, buying some stocks, and going to a ridiculous social gathering, they escape all paradoxes, contradictions, and thus they are heaven-bound.

INSYNC, from page 3

... that exudes the joy of tap dance. The clear and crisp rhythm patterns combined with the concentrated animation of the dancers faces carried the audience right along the path to Zion.

“A Fellow and His Girl” opened the second half with perfect romantic whimsy and “Blues on Tap,” a suite, closed the concert with choreography that transitioned in the same way the mellow intensity of indigo changes to the vibrancy of the royal shade.

IDENTITY JAM, from page 3

... candlelight, meaningful glances, driving away for hours, and most of all—respect for women. Its catchy beat inspired some people to stand up and move to the music.

He ended with a recently composed song entitled “Freedom.” The song was so new, in fact, that ASJ hadn’t yet recorded the beat to it, rapping acapella.

The Office of Multicultural Life, Residential Life and Student Activities Committee sponsored Identity Jam. Lemonjello’s provided free coffee.
MASCOT, FROM PAGE 1

mascot. This way everyone has a say," Engel said. The drawing contest will be announced on KnowHope shortly.

But what does a visual representation of the Flying Dutchman that is inclusive to the whole community look like?

Smith recalled early Dutchmen mascots, "who'd run around at football games and basketball games." The character was designed wearing Dutch shoe cleats and aviator glasses. Although this representation "divinew out around the early '70's," the Hope Hockey team uses a similar illustration, which wielding a hockey stick.

Smith said that "it would be challenging to represent everyone and project ahead something that'll symbolize Hope in the future."

He also mentioned that "to please everyone takes an inordinate amount of time.

Everything's open to speculation depending on what group you talk to."

After hearing faculty and staff's opinion on the mascot, what do students have to say? In addition to conflicting suggestions concerning gender, the appearance and title of Hope's mascot has been debated. Tom Plasman ('09) said, "I want the Dutch-est looking thing possible." Plasman said he liked the sea captain and sailor the best out of the four suggested mascots.

Brian Barry ('06) disagreed with Plasman. "I think we should come up with something else...or take the 'man' off the back and just say 'Dutch.' How do you have the Flying Dutchman represent women's basketball?" Steve Branford ('08) said, "Could the change of a mascot be symbolic of all the change occurring at Hope now? Why not say the Hope Anchors?"

The designs provided in the first campus vote also caused concern. "They're too cartoonish," Mike Braksoma ('06) said, "If we were in grade school it'd be ok...they're not fierce. We might as well upgrade."

Jess Gipson ('07) agreed that mascots should "look strong." She said that she wouldn't mind having a male mascot representing women, but then she added, "I think it could be beneficial to have a male and female mascot."

Matson said, "It has been our intention not to change Hope tradition, offend or exclude anyone from the process of creating a mascot. We are simply trying to fill a need we see present at Hope. Also realizing that no matter what the outcome you cannot make everyone happy."

When I walk into the International Student Lounge in the Martha Miller Center, I always bump into my picture mounted on the wall. No, there's absolutely nothing special about me; my picture is just one among approximately fifty other pictures of international students.

However, to me there's definitely something special about it because it was taken on my first day at Hope. Whenever I look at it I can't help reflecting on my progress from a shy and confused freshman to the confident man that I am now. Right now, as my graduation from Hope draws closer, it's hard to believe just how fast time has flown. All I can do is make an account of how Hope has been.

I'm sorry to say this, but it's here at Hope that I have encountered the most arrogant people in my life. People whom you never want to be in a group project with because they'll always shut your ideas.

Yes, it's also here at Hope that I have met the friendliest people ever. It's here that I have developed the most meaningful relationships of my life, with people that were once strangers.

At Hope, I've developed skills that I never had and discovered talents that I never knew I had. It is in Scott Hall that I played my first guitar note and that led to a musical journey that has never stopped and probably never will. It is at Hope that I discovered my real identity. Being here has made me discover new things about my country, my people and my culture because I have had the opportunity to look at them from a different context.

Furthermore, at Hope, I have been able to openly talk about issues such as politics; issues that back home I could never deal with openly.

Most importantly, here at Hope, I have received a kind of education that will still distinguish me from other people anywhere I go. I could go on and on but to sum it up, at Hope College, I have grown in dimensions and directions that I never imagined when I first arrived.

I thank Hope College and anyone that has impacted who I am today for the four years that I have been here. My journey back home in the near future will be filled with warm memories of the time I spent here.

I urge Hope College to recruit and admit more students from simple backgrounds both for diversity and to make a difference in their lives. I believe the impact of Hope's education would be greatest on such people because they will, in turn, uplift people from their own families and neighborhoods.

LETTER GUIDELINES

The Anchor welcomes letters from anyone within the college and related communities. The staff reserves the right to edit due to space constraints or personal attacks. Letters are chosen on a first come, first served basis, or a representative sample will be taken. No anonymous letters will be printed unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief. Please limit letters to 500 words.

Mail letters to the Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the Martha Miller Center), or e-mail Anchor@hope.edu

VOICES

REFLECTING ON MY FOUR YEARS AT HOPE

Nixon Omollo

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The New Yorker

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**SPORTS**

**UPCOMING HOME GAMES**

Jan. 28 Hockey v. Muskegon C.C.: 
9:20 p.m. at the Edge Ice Arena, 31 and Ransom
Feb. 1 Women’s Basketball v. Adrian:  
6 p.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse, 9th and Lincoln
Feb. 5 Men’s Basketball v. Olivet:  
8 p.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse, 9th and Lincoln
Feb. 4 Men’s Basketball v. Albion:  
3 p.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse, 9th and Lincoln
Feb. 4 Women’s Basketball v. Rochester:  
5 p.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse, 9th and Lincoln

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**FLYING DUTCH SWIM TEAM HEADS TOWARDS MIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Flying Dutch were victorious over Albion 114-96 to improve their dual meet record to 3-4.

Hope winners included Trisha Meier, 200 freestyle (2:01.32); Laura Reest, 200 back (2:11.06, season best); and Andrea Keller, 500 freestyle (5:23.75). Sarah Diekveers had a season-best time in the 200 breaststroke (2:25.38).

The Flying Dutch won an MIAA dual meet victory over the Alma Fighting Scots.

The atmosphere was electric at the Edge Arena Saturday night, anticipating a game with rival Calvin. Everyone from the women selling tickets at the door to the players preparing in the locker room were ready for the game. Hope was looking for a third victory over Alma this season.

The Flying Dutch went on to beat Alma 69-50 on Jan. 21 behind a record DeVos Fieldhouse crowd of 1,527. Boles led the Dutch with four treys, five steals, and a season-high 22 points.

**DO THE DREW CREW**

**NICK HINKLE**

Hope’s student section, known as the Drew Crew, has continued into another season in cheering on Dutchmen basketball.

The crew is a way to get students involved in Hope basketball games. As many as 500 students attend the games in official orange Drew Crew T-shirts to support their fellow Dutchmen.

The concept of the Drew Crew originated from an idea Assistant Coach Matt Neil and his wife had. The couple was attending a Michigan State University basketball game and were impressed by the section the MSU students created.

The Dutch tied the game at 63 piece with five minutes left, and then went on a 13-4 run to end the game and grab a 76-69 victory over the Alma Fighting Scots.

Hope’s struggles included a 35 percent shooting performance from the field and a more than forgettable 23-40 (57 percent) effort from the stripe. Hope out rebounded the Fighting Scots by one, compared to their 11 rebounds.

**NICK RENZICH**

The Flying Dutch defense, however, forced Alma to commit 22 turnovers and compiled 18 steals, led by Stacy Warsen’s five.

Controlling the tempo in the second half, the Dutch used the fast break off turnovers to get good looks at the basket and capitalize on Alma’s mistakes.

Hope’s first fast break, led by Bri Ebels (’06) at point, led to easy points and made sure Alma couldn’t get into their half court zone that plagued the Flying Dutch for most of the first half.

Ebels broke Nikki Mannes’ (’91-’95) all-time three point mark (155) by adding her 156th and 156th three behind the arc.

Ebels, a 5’7” senior guard from Holland, also added four assists.

Ebels, combining with Jordyn Boles (’08) and Linda Ebels (’06), finished the game with 14 points, Ellen Wood (’07) added 12 from the post.

The Flying Dutch went on to beat Albion 69-50 on Jan. 21 behind a record DeVos Fieldhouse crowd of 1,527. Boles led the Dutch with four treys, five steals, and a season-high 22 points.

“Hope is actually the result of some brainstorming that my wife, Kim, and I did 11 years ago. I had turned on the TV to see the Cameron Crazies at Duke and The Orange Crush at Illinois and knew that we could do something similar at Hope,” Coach Neil said.

PepsiCo and Mountain Dew has been a sponsor of Hope basketball.

“PepsiCo and Mountain Dew has been a sponsor of Hope basketball. They have been an important partner to us. Together we have worked to create a fun environment for our students and fans. We have been able to bring in some of the latest trends and incorporate them into our program,” Coach Neil said.

**KNUIGHTS HOCKEY HOLDS 1ST**

**GREG REENZICH**

The atmosphere was electric at the Edge Arena Saturday night, anticipating a game with rival Calvin. Everyone from the women selling tickets at the door to the players preparing in the locker room were ready for the game. Hope was looking for a turn around after the previous two meetings for the season resulting in losses.

But the Calvin Knights handed Hope another 10-4 loss. The first period started with a bang when Calvin scored in the first two minutes. Rallying from a 3-0 deficit, the Dutch scored two quick goals. Calvin scored once more to finish the first period at 4-2.

Hope came into the second period with a power play and good puck movement to score their third goal to pull within one.

Penalties troubled Hope throughout the game, and Calvin recorded five unanswered goals in the second period. In six goals, goalie Paul Cynar (’08) was pulled and Steve Pels (’08) came in. After a minute in goal, a turnover led to a shot that hit the crossbar and deflected into the goal to leave the Dutch at an 8-3 deficit. Hope added one more tally and left the second period down 8-4.

Calvin dominated the third period with goalie John Singleton stealing the show. Singleton shutout the Dutchmen in the third to lead Calvin to a 10-4 victory.